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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Confirmation No. 8224
Toru SUZUKI et al. : Docket No. 2001-0554A
Serial No. 09/854,528 : Group Art Unit 1731
Filed May 15, 2001 : Examiner John M. Hoffman

ORIENTED SINTERED CERAMIC
PRODUCT AND MANUFACTURING
METHOD THEREOF

RESPONSE TO ADVISORY ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) was filed November 30, 2004.

On the Continuation Sheet attached to the Advisory Action mailed November 5, 2004, the Examiner states that Applicants did not respond to part of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. This apparently refers to the last paragraph on page 2 of the Office Action of July 30, 2004. Perhaps the Examiner's comment in the last paragraph on page 2 was directed to the sentence at page 5, lines 3-4 of the Amendment filed June 29, 2004, which states that the Giessen et al. reference does not disclose or suggest the use of a force equivalent to the external force which aligns the particles through a method of colloid process as in the present invention. What Applicants meant to say is that Giessen et al. uses an external force that aligns the material such as gravity, centrifugal force, deforming pressure or shear, or an electric field, and that such external force does not exist in the present invention. Applicants' attorney apologizes for the error.

Also on the Continuation Sheet attached to the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that Applicants have not presented any evidence to support the art-recognized meaning of "oriented" as set forth in the third full paragraph on page 6 of the Amendment After Final Rejection filed October

28, 2004, which refers to orientation of a crystal face (or a crystal axis) of a non-ferromagnetic powder which constitutes a sintered object. Although Applicants have not found a publication which shows that an "oriented sintered ceramic product" refers to orientation of a crystal face (or a crystal axis), the following articles relate to oriented ceramic products:

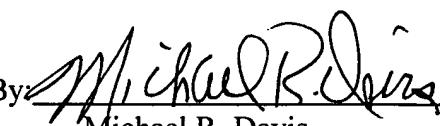
1. Kazuhisa Sato et al., "Atomic Ordering Reaction and Associated Variation of Magnetic Coercivity of Oriented L10-FePt Nanoparticles," *J. Ceramic Processing Research*, 1, 109-114 (2000);
2. Q. Feng et al., "Topotactic Preparation of Preferentially Oriented BaTiO₃ and TiO₂ Thin Films on Polycrystalline Substrate" *Chemistry Letters*, Vol. 32, pp. 48-49 (2003); and
3. T. Tani et al., "Fabrication of <111> Oriented BaTiO₃ Bulk Ceramic by Reactive Tempered Grain Growth Method" *J. Ceram. Soc. Jpn.*, 109-10 (2001), 897-900.

Applicants respectfully submit that, in the field of art related to oriented sintered ceramic products, the term "oriented" clearly does not refer to the manner in which the sintered ceramic products are packaged in a box for shipping, stacking and protection, as previously suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, in view of the entry of the most recent claim amendments, realized by the filing of the RCE, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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